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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,197	07/15/2003	Byron Vencent Bell	2001-0699.09	8696

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EXAMINER

BROOKE, MICHAEL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2853

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/620,197	Applicant(s) BELL ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael S. Brooke	Art Unit 2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 11 and 13-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 10 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/09/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al. (4,567,493) in view of Yaegashi et al. (5,270,370).

Ikeda et al. teaches an ink jet print head comprising:

- A housing (Fig. 6) having a heater chip (211) formed thereon. The housing comprises a supply of ink (308) and the heater chip has an ink via (305) in fluidic access with the ink supply.
- A substrate (205).
- A thermal barrier layer (206) made of SiO₂ and having a thickness of 5 microns (col. 7:48-49).
- A resistor layer (207) having a width, a thickness and a length, wherein the resistor is made of HfB₂ (col. 6:6-51) and has a thickness of 10 angstroms (col. 6:67-68).
- A conductor layer (204), having an anode and a cathode, is provided on the resistor layer and defines a heater length.

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- A first protective layer (208) made of SiN and having a thickness of 1000 angstroms, functions as a passivation layer (col. 4:25-26).
- A third protection layer (210) made of Ta and having a thickness of 100 angstroms, functions as a cavitation layer (col. 6:12).

Thus, the thickness of the resistor and the protective layer equals about 1000 angstroms. Ikeda is silent with regard to the area of the heater

Ikeda et al. teaches the claimed invention with the exception of the heater having an area of from about 50 to about 100 sq. microns, about 100 to about 150 sq. microns about 150 to about 200 sq. microns, about 200 to about 250 sq. microns, about 250 to about 300 sq. microns, about 300 to about 350 sq. microns, and about 350 to about 400 sq. microns.

Yaegashi teaches that is notoriously old and well known in the ink jet that a heater having an area of 100 to 30,000 sq. microns is a suitable size for providing good discharge characteristics (col. 12:40-43).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the ink jet art at the time the invention was made to have provided Ikeda et al. with a heating resistor with an area of about 50 to about 100 sq. microns, about 100 to about 150 sq. microns and about 150 to about 200 sq. microns, for the purpose of providing good discharge characteristics, as taught by Yaegashi.

Claims 4-7, 9, 11 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al. (4,567,493) in view of Eida et al. (4,338,611).

Ikeda teaches the claimed invention, as above, with the exception of a heating resistor with an area of about 200 to about 250 sq. microns, about 250 to about 300 sq. microns, about 300 to about 350 sq. microns, and about 350 to about 400 sq. microns.

Eida et al. teaches an ink jet print head having a heater made of HfB_2 and an area that ranges from 250 sq. microns (Table 1, example 5) to 400 sq. microns (see Table 1, example 11). Using a heater with this area provides the advantages of high frequency recording, stability of the discharging direction and prevention of satellite drops (col. 6:33-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the ink jet art at the time the invention was made to have provided Ikeda et al. with a heating resistor with an area of 250 to 400 sq. microns, for the purpose of improving recording frequency, improving the stability of the discharge direction and preventing satellite drops, as taught by Eida et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

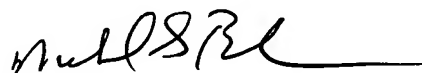
Claims 8, 10 and 12 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record the claimed ejection energies.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael S. Brooke whose telephone number is (571) 272-2142. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 AM-2:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael S. Brooke
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2853

MSB
04/07/04